

2005

# Battalion Fire Chief

## Current Administration

## Orientation Guide



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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

This page is intended to provide you with specific information regarding the current testing cycle for the Battalion Chief exam, which includes the most recent test announcements for this position. To view information regarding the general test process, please check the [Battalion Fire Chief General Orientation Guide](#).

Note: The format of the test is subject to the review and approval by the United States Department of Justice. Consequently, it is possible that the test format/design could change prior to the administration of this examination. Should any changes be made, this Orientation Guide will be revised and all candidates will be provided ample notification of this change prior to the test date.

## **II. DESCRIPTION OF THE EXAMINATION**

### **A. Test Date**

Approximately two weeks before the test date, candidates will receive a notice in the mail that shows the date, time, location and room to which they should report for their examination. The Oral Examination is tentatively scheduled for the third or fourth week of February 2006. Again, candidates will be notified regarding the test date, time, and location of the oral examination component.

### **B. Description of Test Format**

#### **1. Written Multiple-Choice Examination**

Size-up

- Knowledge of size-up factors

Effects of Weather Conditions on Fire Responses

- Knowledge of the effects of weather and intense fire conditions on personnel

Construction Relating to Firefighting (including collapse potential)

- Knowledge of occupancy collapse potential and characteristics
- Knowledge of the effects of fire on a structure
- Knowledge of design, construction, and their effect on fire behavior

Conditions of Fire Spread

- Knowledge of fire behavior
- Knowledge of fire spread and growth
- Knowledge of fireload (building and contents)

- Ability to plan and direct a fire attack;
- Knowledge of fireground, search and rescue, and ventilation procedures.

## **2. Short-Answer Essay Examination**

- Ability to evaluate a fire scene;
- Ability to plan and direct a fire attack;
- Knowledge of fireground, search and rescue, and ventilation procedures.

## **3. Structured Oral Interview**

- Oral communication
- Management/Supervision
- Analysis/Decision Making

## **4. Oral Analysis/Presentation Exercise**

- Oral communication
- Management/Supervision
- Analysis/Decision Making

## **C. Suggested Reading List**

Please note that the Department of Personnel intends to use the book list on a limited basis to develop test items. More specifically, while the justification for correct responses may be drawn from materials on the reading list, it is not limited to that material. Justification may also be based on the collective Fire Service experience of Subject Matter Experts. When justification is based on experience, care is taken to ensure that correct answers do not conflict with the sources on the reading list.

1. *The Fire Chief's Handbook*, Fifth Edition (April 1995)  
by J.R. Bachtler, Thomas F. Brennan;  
Publisher: Fire Engineering Book Department (918) 835-3161
2. *Fire Officer's Handbook of Tactics*, 2nd Edition (March 1998)  
by John Norman  
Publisher: Fire Engineering Book Department (918) 835-3161
3. *Safety and Survival on the Fireground* (January 1992)  
by Vincent Dunn  
Publisher: Fire Engineering Book Department (918) 835-3161
4. *Management in the Fire Service*, 3rd Edition (June 1999)  
by Harry R. Carter, Erwin Rausch

Must Order Direct through Publisher: National Fire Protection Assn. (800) 344-3555

5. *Hazardous Materials: Managing the Incident*, 2nd Edition (December 1995)  
by Gregory G. Noll, James Yvorra  
Publisher: International Fire Service Training Assn. (800) 654-4055
6. *Building Construction for the Fire Service*, Third Edition  
by Francis L. Brannigan, SFPE  
Publisher: National Fire Protection Assn. (800) 344-3555